

Application No. 09/973,225
Amendment dated 8/13/03
Reply to Office Action of 4/21/2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (cancelled).

Claim 2. (currently amended) A device for sealing a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device comprising ~~at least one element~~ with a disc shaped surface ~~and of~~ generally uniform thickness, having a radially outer, annular and planar rim smaller than the diameter of the hole ~~accepting the element~~, and having a cone or dome shape, shaped continuous surface with a central apex raised above the plane of the rim in a first direction, the outer rim having a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that when the rim is supported in the first direction normal to the axis of the hole the rim expands radially outward to engage the hole wall upon application of an axial force applied in ~~the first direction to the rim and a second axial force applied to the central apex~~ in a second opposing direction to the central apex, whereby the surface is flattened to traverse and seal the hole and the rim is expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall.

Claim 3. (withdrawn)

Claim 4. (currently Amended) A device per claim 2, wherein the element cone or dome shaped surface is formed as a ~~cone or dome shaped~~ transverse bottom at one a first end of a

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cylinder, the surface rim being attached to the first end of the cylinder, and the other, second end of the cylinder comprising a radially outwardly projecting shoulder having a greater diameter than the hole, the apex of the surface being raised relative to the rim toward the second end and the rim being supported in the first direction by the shoulder.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A device to reduce a hole having a wall of surrounding material, a central axis, and a predetermined inside diameter, the device comprising at least one element with a first frustaconical disc shaped surface and a of generally uniform thickness, having a base and a top, with a radially outer planar rim forming the base with a smaller diameter than the hole and a central opening at the top, the rim being of greater diameter than, and concentric with, the central opening, and a second frustaconical surface the same shape as the first surface with a central opening the same diameter as the first surface opening and a base forming a radially outer planar rim the same diameter as the first surface rim, the second surface being inverted with respect to the first surface such that the first and second surfaces are joined proximate to the central opening of each surface and the rims of each surface are axially separated, the outer rim having a large enough diameter relative to the diameter of the hole that the rim expands radially outward to engage the hole wall rims being engageable with the wall of the hole such that when the device is positioned in the hole with the planes of the rims normal to the axis of the hole, upon application of an opposing axial force forces applied to the rim rims in a first direction toward the top and a second axial force applied against the top in a second

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~~opposing direction toward the rim. the separation of the rims is reduced and the rims are~~
expanded radially outward to engage the hole wall.

Claims 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (currently Amended) A device in accord with claim 10 5, wherein the element
further comprises an annulus of elastomer inserted and retained between the first and
second surfaces.
